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THOMAS**

**CLAUDE
ST. AUBIN**

**ALLEN
NUNIS**

THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR™



BLOOD OF INNOCENCE!

In 1796, while Napoleon Bonaparte's troops ride roughshod over France's foes, *Dracula* gains vampiric sway over a selfish young woman named *Mirka*, the daughter of Count Bogdan, in order to increase his earthly power by marriage.

Realizing belatedly that *Dracula* is one of the undead, Bogdan leads a handful of soldiers into his castle, intending to slay the vampire. But Bogdan's men are instead slain by *Dracula*, and *Dracula* has Bogdan's newly-undead daughter slay her father.

Meanwhile, having come from the Arctic into the Transylvanian Alps in search of a way to make himself a mate, the *Monster* created by Victor Frankenstein has been befriended by a girl named *Irena*. When French troops ransack her village, *Irena* convinces him to defend it against the brutish soldier called "*Monsieur Massacre*." But the *Monster* must give way when their leader, the magician *Count St. Germain*, holds the girl hostage.

St. Germain, who claims to have been kept alive for centuries by a mystic elixir, has come to obtain the one ingredient he still needs in order for the liquid to grant eternal life: the undead heart of a vampire.

Concerned for *Irena*, the *Monster* swiftly travels by foot to the wild Carpathian mountains... and into Castle *Dracula*.

He is not unexpected...

THE FRANKENSTEIN DRACULA WAR

FRANKENSTEIN CREATED BY MARY SHELLEY

DRACULA CREATED BY BRAM STOKER

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TRANSLYVANIA, 1796.

THE EIGHT-FOOT MONSTER
CREATED BY THE LATE VICTOR
FRANKENSTEIN HAS
STRIDDEN BOLDLY INTO THE
CASTLE OF COUNT DRACULA...

I HAVE BEEN
AWAITING YOUR
ARRIVAL, MY GRAVE-
SPAWNED FRIEND.

PART 2: THE GRAND ALLIANCE

IF SO, VAMPIRE--
THEN YOU KNOW WHY
I HAVE COME!

AYE!
TO RIP OUT
MY HEART--

-- SO IT CAN
PROVIDE THAT UPSTART
CHARLATAN COUNT
SAINT-GERMAIN
WITH ETERNAL
LIFE!

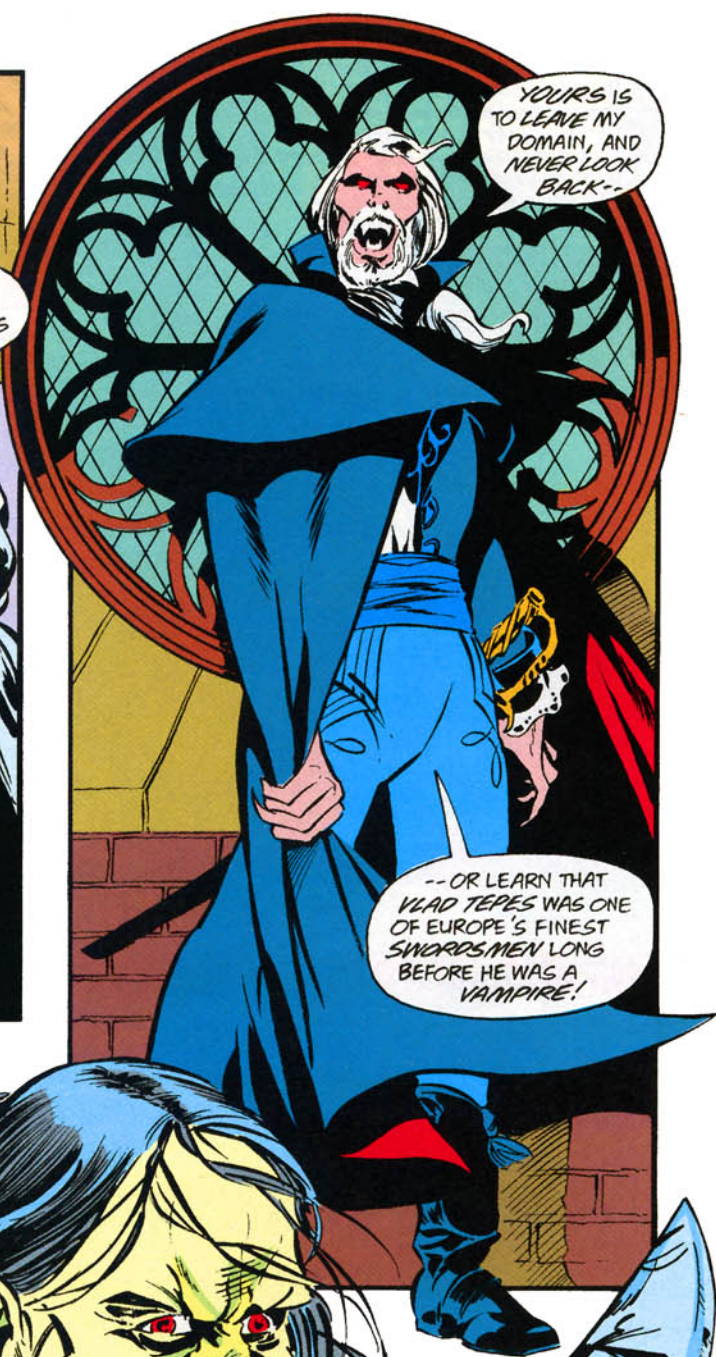
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THEN YOU ALSO KNOW
I'VE NO CHOICE IN
THE MATTER.

I DO WHAT I MUST
DO-- FOR THE LIFE OF
A WOMAN WHO MEANS
MUCH TO ME.

EACH OF
US HAS A CHOICE,
WRETCH--EVEN
YOU.



YOURS IS
TO LEAVE MY
DOMAIN, AND
NEVER LOOK
BACK--

--OR LEARN THAT
VLAD TERES WAS ONE
OF EUROPE'S FINEST
SWORDS MEN LONG
BEFORE HE WAS A
VAMPIRE!



FOR THAT
VERY REASON,
COUNT, HE WHO
SENT ME GAVE
ME THIS--

--AND I'VE
WELL LEARNED
ITS USE UPON
THE ROAD FROM
AUSTRIA!

PREPARE
TO MEET THE DEATH
FROM WHICH THERE
IS NO WAKING!



SO WIDE
YOUR EYES, MA
CHER IRENE...

...SO
SOFT THE
THROAT!

P-PLEASE,
MONSIEUR
MASSACRE...



CEASE YOUR
POINTLESS THREATS,
DE LA CROIX!

FOR HER SAKE, FRANKENSTEIN'S
CREATION IS ALREADY DOING
OUR BIDDING--

-- WITHIN THOSE
PROUD WALLS WHERE
DRACULA HAS DWELT
FOR CENTURIES.



HOW GENEROUS
OF HIM TO GRANT ME
IMMORTALITY-- AT THE
COST OF HIS OWN!

HE IS A MAN--
A VAMPIRE--
AFTER MY OWN
HEART...

I'VE LIVED AS
LONG AS DRACULA,
BUT I'VE LATELY
BEGUN TO AGE AT
LAST.



"OR, RATHER
--I AM AFTER
HIS!"

YOU ARE
CLEARLY A
NOVICE, MY
FRIEND.

STILL,
YOU ARE
FAST--

--AND
YOUR REACH
DOES BESTOW
SOME
ADVANTAGES.

BUT
NOT QUITE
ENOUGH!



YOUR SWORD-
ARM-- STAYS
MINE!

NOT SINCE MY
BIRTH THAT DREARY
NIGHT SEVEN YEARS
AGO HAVE I MET ONE
MY EQUAL IN
STRENGTH!

EQUAL,
WRETCH?

EQUAL??

I AM YOUR
SUPERIOR!



EH? WHAT
PALE, YELLOWISH
EXCUSE FOR BLOOD
IS THIS THAT COURSES
THROUGH YOUR
MONSTROUS
VEINS?



YET IT'S
NOT MY
SINews
THAT WILL
BRING YOU
DOWN--

--BUT MY
BLADE!

IT FOULS
MY SWORD--
YET STILL YOU
STAND!



'TIS THE BLOOD MY CREATOR
GAVE ME, VAMPIRE!

I DO NOT STEAL THE
LIQUID OF LIFE FROM
OTHERS IN THE DEAD
OF NIGHT--

--EXCEPT
THIS ONCE!

AND EVEN NOW--
I MUST TAKE CARE
THAT I DO NOT INJURE
YOUR UNDEAD
HEART!

FEAR NOT!
YOU'LL NOT HARM
ONE WHO CAN TURN
HIS BODY, HEART
AND ALL--

YOU'LL
NOT ESCAPE
ME!

NOT AS MAN--
NOT AS MIST--
NOT AS BAT-
WINGED THING!

--INTO THE
VAGARIES
OF MIST!

I SHALL
HAVE THAT FOR
WHICH I CAME!

DO YOU *TRULY* THINK YOU CAN REACH ME--

--UP HERE?

THERE *MUST* BE A WAY TO REACH YOU!

PERHAPS-- THROUGH *THIS* CHAMBER--!?

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD TAKE THAT ROUTE, AND SO I PREPARED YOU--

--A WELCOME!

NO--!

RAGE ALL YOU WISH, FIEND. THAT CAGE WILL *HOLD* YOU.

IT OCCURS TO ME THAT *YOU* MAY BE AS *UNKILL-ABLE* AS I AM.

PERHAPS WE'VE MORE IN *COMMON* THAN I FIRST THOUGHT.

WE MUST TALK.





...AFTER
YOU'VE HAD TIME
TO REFLECT UPON
THE HOPELESSNESS
OF YOUR PREDIC-
AMENT.

BUT HE MIGHT
HAVE STOLEN UPON
ME UNAWARES,
MY DEAR
MARCEL--

--IF YOU HAD NOT
DERESERTED THE FRENCH
FORCES IN TRANSYLVANIA--
AND HURRIED HERE TO
WARN ME OF HIS
COMING.

YOU HAVE
EARNED
THE PRICE
YOU ASKED
FOR YOUR
INFORMATION.



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR
BEING SKEPTICAL OF WHAT
I TOLD YOU, MILORD-- UNTIL
YOU ACTUALLY SAW THIS
APPARITION.

YES.
AND YET--



-- HE IS NOT ENTIRELY
WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

YEARS AGO, I
HEARD TALES OF A
MONSTROUS GOLEM, IN
PRAGUE-- FROM CERTAIN
JEWS, BEFORE I PUT
THEM TO THE STAKE.



I EVEN SHARE A
CERTAIN KINSHIP WITH
THIS BRUTE WHICH, YOU
SAY, WAS CREATED BY
A SWISS-BORN MEDICAL
STUDENT NAMED
FRANKENSTEIN.

AFTER ALL,
BOTH OF US
WERE ONCE DEAD--
THOUGH IN DIFFERING
WAYS-- AND NOW, WE
LIVE AGAIN.

IT MAY EVEN
BE THAT HE IS
IMMORTAL,
AS I AM.



YES, YOU POOR WRETCH,
YOU AND I MUST DEFINITELY
CONVERSE-- SOON.



BUT FIRST, I
MUST TEND TO A
MORE PRESSING
CONCERN:

THAT
INTERLOPER
COUNT SAINT-
GERMAIN, WHO HAS
DARED INVADE MY REALM
AT THE HEAD OF FRENCH
TROOPS.

BUT, MONSIEUR--
YOU WILL NEED A HUMAN
HEART TO BAIT
THE TRAP!

MY POWER OVER
VAPORS ALLOWS ME
TO CONGEAL INTO AN
APPROXIMATE SEM-
BLANCE OF OUR GAR-
GANTUAN GUEST--

--JUST LONG ENOUGH,
I TRUST, TO DECEIVE THAT
INFAMOUS ALCHEMIST.

OR WILL YOU
HOPE THE HEART OF
A GOAT WILL SUFFICE,
IN FAILING LIGHT?

OH NO,
GOOD
MARCEL...



AAGGGGG



I MUCH PREFER THE GENUINE ARTICLE!

COUNT SAINT-GERMAIN!

YOU CAN SEE I HAVE DRACULA'S HEART!

COME CLAIM YOUR IMMORTALITY!



IT CAN'T BE THIS EASY TO SLAY A VAMPIRE -- ESPECIALLY BY NIGHT!

AND THAT SCREAM WE HEARD--!?

HIS PAIN-- WHEN HIS EVIL HEART WAS PULLED FROM HIS BODY.

MONSTER! BRING THE HEART DOWN HERE TO ME!

IN A MOMENT, MY DEAR SIR...



KLANK!

WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!

WELCOME TO MY HOUSE! YOU HAVE EACH ENTERED FREELY, AND OF YOUR OWN WILL...

WE'RE LOCKED IN!



...BUT IT IS NOT MY WILL THAT YOU SHOULD EVER LEAVE!

DRACULA!

YOU HAVE TRAPPED US--BUT YOU'VE NOT DEFEATED US!

I'VE JOURNEYED A THOUSAND MILES FOR YOUR HEART--AND BY GOD, I'LL HAVE IT!

WRRROOOOOO

SURROUND HIM! YOU'VE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ONE MAN!

BUT DRACULA IS NOT A MAN--

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

--NOR IS HE WITHOUT FRIENDS!

WHAT MUSIC THEY MAKE!

AAIIII

LOOK AT THEM--THE CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT!

RRR RRRR



SO!

NOW, IT IS
JUST YOU AND I,
DRACULA-- A
BATTLE OF
EQUALS.

YOU DARE
TO PLACE YOUR-
SELF ON A PLANE
WITH ME!?

YOU
ARE RIGHT,
MONSIEUR.

WHY SHOULD
I ASSUME YOU
ARE MY EQUAL--

--WHEN THE
MAGIC SPELLS I'VE
CAST ABOUT MYSELF
BURN YOU LIKE SILVER
OR GARLIC OR A
CRUCIFIX!

HNNHH

YOU ARE LESS
THAN FOUR HUNDRED
YEARS OLD-- I
SOMEWHAT OLDER
THAN THAT.

I HAVE
FOUGHT AND, YES,
FED MY LIFE FORCES
UPON YOUR ILK IN
EGYPT AND INDIA.

TO ME,
PRINCE OF
VAMPIRES,
YOU ARE BUT--

--A
NOVICE!

DAARRRRGGGG



GOOD! IN
YOUR HELPLESS
AGONY, YOU'VE
REGAINED YOUR
HUMAN
FORM!

SO MUCH
THE EASIER
FOR MY SILVER
DAGGER, THEN--



--TO LOCATE YOUR
UNDEAD HEART!

HGGNNN



LET
HIM
GO!

YOU!

LINHAND ME,
YOU REPULSIVE
CADAVER, OR
I SHALL--



I SHALL,
INDEED--

--LINHAND
YOU!

YOU--
SAVED
ME--!?

WAAAAA

YOU SAID WE HAVE MUCH
IN COMMON, VAMPIRE--AND
UPON REFLECTION, I
AGREED!

FAR MORE THAN
I HAVE WITH THIS--
HUMAN!

YOU--HAVE
DOOMED YOUR LADY
LOVE, MONSTER-- FOR
MY MAN, "MONSIEUR
MASSACRE"-- WILL
SLAY HER NOW!

BUT--YOU
HAVE ALSO
DOOMED--

--YOUR-
SELVES!

WORDS
STREAM FROM
SAINT-GERMAIN'S
FROTHED LIPS--
WORDS IN A TONGUE
UNKNOWN FOR
THOUSANDS OF
YEARS--

--AND THE CALL
IS ANSWERED!

KKRAAAAAKKK

FROM WHAT HELL THESE TENDRILLS
HAVE SPRUNG, ITS TWO-FOLD
PREY NEITHER KNOW NOR CARE...



YET, AS THE MONSTER'S HERCULEAN STRENGTH RIPS AND TEARS AT FLESH-THAT-IS-NOT-FLESH--



--DRACULA'S EYES ARE SET ON A GLEAMING PRIZE.



THE VERY THOUGHT OF SILVER IS LOATHSOME TO THE VAMPIRE...



ITS TOUCH WILL BE PAINFUL BEYOND BEARING.



YET, AS SAINT-GERMAIN'S ULLULATING CHANT--



--RISES IN DEADLY CRESCENDO--



--BEAR IT HE DOES--



GURRGCK

--TO LETHAL EFFECT!



WHEN THE MAGICIAN'S VOICE IS STILLED--

--THE WRITHING TENDRILS FOLLOW IT INTO THAT OBLIVION RESERVED FOR THINGS THAT NO LONGER EXIST.



I...UNDERESTIMATED YOU, MY FRIEND. I SEE BY YOUR HANDS THAT YOU BATTERED YOUR WAY OUT OF MY ENCLOSURE.

I DO NOT LIKE BEING CAGED.

NOW, YOU WILL HELP ME RESCUE A GIRL FROM THE FRENCH OUTSIDE.

I WOULD, AND GLADLY--



HELP ME!

--BUT I THINK THAT PERHAPS IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.

GILES DE LA CROIX NAMED HIMSELF "MONSIEUR MASSACRE."

--HE KNOWS HE HAS PURSUED HER-- TOO FAR.



BUT, IN THIS MOMENT, AS HE BEHOLDS THE WOMAN HE PURSUES FLANKED BY HORRORS OUT OF LEGEND--

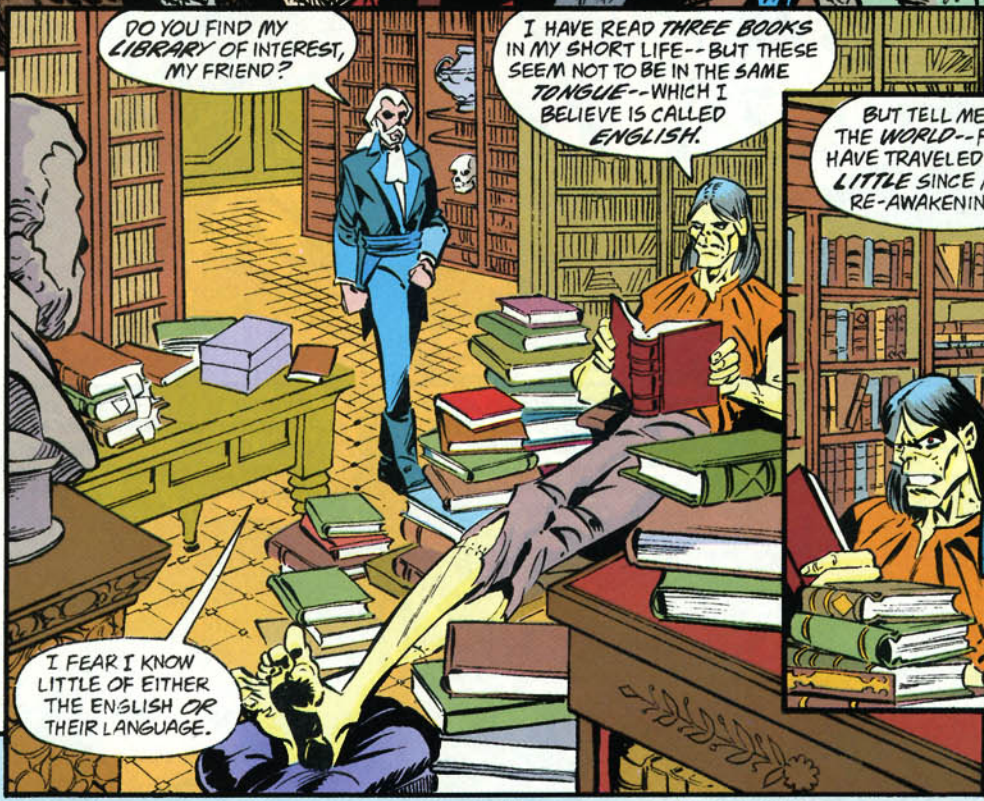




IN DAYS TO COME,
THE ROTTING, IMPAIRED
FORMS OF GILES DE
LA CROIX AND COUNT
SAINT-GERMAIN
REPLACE THAT OF
THE LATE DUKE
BOGVAN--



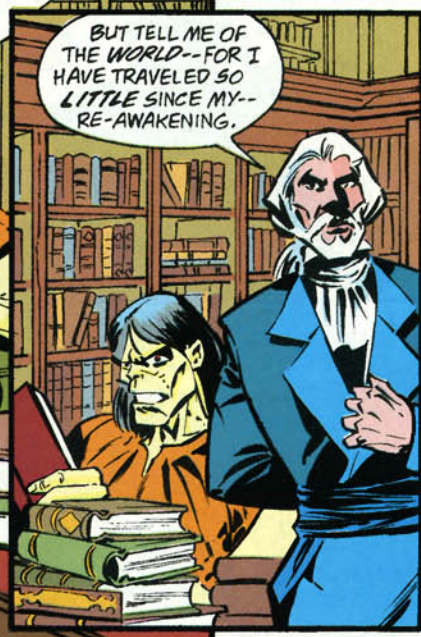
--AS MUTE
WELCOMERS TO
CASTLE DRACULA.



DO YOU FIND MY
LIBRARY OF INTEREST,
MY FRIEND?

I HAVE READ THREE BOOKS
IN MY SHORT LIFE-- BUT THESE
SEEM NOT TO BE IN THE SAME
TONGUE-- WHICH I
BELIEVE IS CALLED
ENGLISH.

I FEAR I KNOW
LITTLE OF EITHER
THE ENGLISH OR
THEIR LANGUAGE.



BUT TELL ME OF
THE WORLD--FOR I
HAVE TRAVELED SO
LITTLE SINCE MY--
RE-AWAKENING.



I HAVE SEEN
STRANGE SIGHTS
SINCE I CAME SOUTH
FROM THE POLAR
LANDS.

MEN HAVE LEARNED
TO FLY, IN BALLOONS
FILLED WITH HEATED
AIR...

ARMIES
ARE EVERYWHERE
ON THE MARCH...

CANNONS ROAR LIKE
RAGING LIONS OVER MUCH
OF EUROPE...

YOUR WORDS
STIR ME, FOR I AM,
AFTER ALL, A VOIVODE--
A WARLORD-- A
DESCENDENT OF
ATILLA.

I HAVE SPENT
CENTURIES WITHIN
THESE WALLS. YET,
WHEN I LIVED, I RANGED
TO GALLI POLI, EVEN
CONSTANTINOPLE.

PERHAPS, ONE
DAY--IN ANOTHER
HUNDRED YEARS,
OR EVEN
LESS..

THERE IS ONE BOOK
HERE I WOULD LIKE YOU
TO TRANSLATE IN PART
FOR ME, IF YOU WILL..

IT SEEMS TO DEAL
WITH ALCHEMY, SUCH
AS MY CREATOR
ONCE STUDIED...



I HOPE ONE DAY TO DUPLICATE
HIS RESEARCH, AND MAKE MYSELF
THE MATE WHICH HE DENIED ME.

YES. YOU HAVE THE WOMAN MIRKA,
THERE-- WHO CAME TO YOU AFTER
YOU SLEW HER FATHER, DUKE
BOGDAN.

TRUE. I HAVE GIVEN
HER THE SAME KIND
OF LIFE WHICH
I KNOW.

...THOUGH I
SUPPOSE YOU WOULD
PREFER A MATE
WHO'D NOT GROW
OLD AND DIE...

...AS YOUR
PEASANT
WENCH
WILL,
SOMEDAY.



EH? I
AM SORRY, MY
FRIEND-- I
SCARCELY HEARD
YOU.

MY
THOUGHTS
WERE...
ELSEWHERE.

A MATE,
DID YOU
SAY?



BUT SHE IS
HARDLY A MATE
IN THE SENSE
YOU MEAN.

PERHAPS
YOU HAD BEST
CLEAVE TO
YOUR IRENA...



VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S CREATION
DOES NOT AGE.

SINCE HIS MAKER'S DEMISE
TWO YEARS AGO, HE HAS THOUGHT
LITTLE ABOUT DEATH.

BUT NOW, DRACULA'S
WORDS FORCE HIM TO
TAKE A NEW LOOK AT
IRENA.

HOW LONG WILL THEY
HAVE TOGETHER?

A YEAR? TEN
YEARS? FIFTY?
DOES IT MATTER?

HE WILL ENDURE--
BUT SHE COULD FALL
PREY AT ANY TIME TO
AN ACCIDENT... A
DISEASE... A BULLET.

PERHAPS SHE CAN-
NOT LOVE HIM, AS
HE WOULD HAVE A
TRUE MATE LOVE
HIM...

BUT SHE IS HIS...
COMPANION.

HE IS A MAN-MADE
THING... SHE, A SHUNNED
OUTCAST BECAUSE SHE
POISONED HER CRUEL
FAMILY.

TOGETHER, HE
MUSES, THEY
WILL FACE THE
WORLD...

...AND THE SUSPIC-
IOUS DENIZENS OF
THE NEARBY VILLAGE
CAN DWELL IN THEIR
OWN FLEETING HELLS,
THEIR LIVES FLITTING
BEFORE THEIR EYES
LIKE DOOMED MAY-
FLIES.

THE MONSTER LOOKS
AT HIS OWN LIFE...
AND PRONOUNCES
IT GOOD.



WHEN MIRKA WAS TRULY ALIVE, SHE WAS A SPOILED AND WILLFUL YOUNG NOBLE-WOMAN.



BECOMING A VAMPIRE HAS CHANGED HER LESS THAN SOME.

DRACULA...



MAY WE HUNT TOGETHER TONIGHT?



INDEPENDENT SINCE CHILDHOOD, IRENA CHOOSES TO SEEK GAME FOR HER OWN TABLE, IN THE CHILL EVENING AIR.



SO THIS IS WHY YOU LED ME IN THIS DIRECTION!



IS SHE NOT... FULL OF LIFE?



YES.



THE DAY DAWNS BRIGHT AS AN ACHING MEMORY.

THERE IS NO SIGN
THAT IRENA HAS
SLEPT IN HER BED.

BUT IT IS MID-AFTERNOON
BEFORE HER COMPANION
OF MANY DAYLIGHT HOURS
BECOMES SORELY CON-
CERNED.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, HE HAS
SKIPTED THE VILLAGE, WHOSE
PEOPLE HAVE SEEN HIM ONLY
FROM A DISTANCE...

...UNTIL NOW.

I MEAN NO
ONE HARM.

I ONLY
SEEK THE
GIRL KNOWN
AS IRENA.

TH-THEN LOOK IN THE
DEEP WOODS--FOR THE
MEN HAVE SEEN STRANGE
SIGHTS THERE--

--AND LET
US BE!

YOU LIVE WITH HIM--IN THE
CASTLE-- AND WE'VE PRAYED
GOD YOU WOULD BOTH
REMAIN THERE!

THERE IS NO USE
TRYING TO ANSWER
THEIR FEARS.

ONLY ONE
MATTERS
TO HIM.

ONE WHO HAS MADE HIM FOR-
GET EVEN HIS QUEST FOR
FRANKENSTEIN'S NOTES,
CONTAINING THE SECRET OF
HOW TO CREATE ANOTHER OF
HIS OWN KIND.

IT IS, INDEED, IN THE FOREST
THAT HE FINDS HER...

AFTER
NIGHTFALL.

IRENA...?

G-GO
AWAY!

I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
SEE ME--

--LIKE
THIS!





DRACULAAAAAAA



**NEXT:
TRIUMPH
and
TRAGEDY**

THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR CORRESPONDENCE

QUESTION:

How do you put together a two-page letters section for the second issue of a series, when it has to be written weeks before the first issue has gone on sale?

ANSWER:

There are at least three ways to handle it, actually:

(1) First, you can utilize art which otherwise would never be seen by most of the general public.

For instance, while editor in chief Jim Salicrup and editor Len Brown were busy cajoling artist Mike Mignola into doing the covers for THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR, they discovered they needed a picture drawn virtually overnight to accompany ads in the industry's trade magazines—an illustration that clearly said, "In this series, the Frankenstein Monster and Count Dracula are going to war—against each other!"

Since even the first of Mike's projected covers was still some weeks away from completion, Len phoned the series' penciler, Claude St. Aubin—and our Canadian cousin came through with the truly mind-boggling piece of art which (if the gods are kind) you can see on the page following this one.

It had always seemed a shame that only a relatively few people would see Claude's illo—and in black-and-white, yet—so it's been painstakingly colored by Carl Gafford and spotlighted this time around as a special treat.

With artwork like that, even Mike Mignola had a tough act to follow!

(And maybe this is a good place to mention that, if you dig Claude St. Aubin's artwork, you'll see more of it on prominent display in Topps Comics' JURASSIC PARK Annual #1 which should be hitting your favorite comic shop this coming June. Don't miss it! As fans of CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS know, the lad can draw tyrannosaurs with the best of them!

(2) Okay, that gave us one-half of what we needed! So what's the second way you fill a letters section with no letters yet in sight?

Well, since THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR is a sequel of sorts to several Topps Comics limited series which have come before it (BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA; DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER; and MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN), even though two of those were film adaptations, Len trekked down to the office of Renée Witterstaetter, editor of the latter series; and she graciously turned over letters she'd received on its early issues. At the same time, Roy dug into his files for

a letter he received last autumn on VLAD.

(3) As for the third way to fill a letters section before the letters can start coming in—well, actually, you've just been looking at it, friend.

You write about how you put together a letters section before the letters can start coming in!

Now, on to those letters we do have:

Dear Editor:

Some thoughts on the first issue of your new mini-series adapting the movie, "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein."

I haven't had a chance to see the film itself yet... and considering how low a priority I place on going to the theatre these days, odds are Topps' mini-series will be finished and off the racks for some months before I rent it as a video. But if the work I see here is any indication, the movie is bound to become the new definitive version of this classic horror story.

Of course, with Roy Thomas at the helm, I'm hard-pressed to see how anything else but a lavish and faithful adaptation would be possible. Roy's previous adaptation work—on such disparate projects as Marvel's *Conan the Barbarian* and *Star Wars* to your own BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA—serves as evidence that he takes his role as adaptation-scripter very seriously, and that he makes a conscious effort to get the details right. Not just faithfully following the plot, but actually going as far as to use dialogue from the film itself... so that when you compare the movie to the comic, you can easily see how "true" an adaptation it is. I don't know if anyone has told Roy this previously, but I for one appreciate that kind of attention to detail.

Just as a side note, I notice that more and more of Roy's comics writing time these days is being spent at Topps, on projects like this and the always-delightful CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS string. Has he grown disenchanted with Marvel and DC of late? I'm hoping that's not the case; their super-heroes need people like him to write their adventures, with his love of continuity and attention to small details! Indeed, the next time DC decides it needs to straighten out its continuity (and such a time will come, never fear), I'd love to see Roy do the crossover series that fixes it!

But, getting back to FRANKENSTEIN: not only is Roy's adaptation of the film dead-on so far, but the artwork is also lush and breathtaking. This is easily the finest work I've ever seen from Rafael Kayanan and Rick Magyar. So, if I haven't



made it clear up to now, let me assure you that I'll be here for all four issues!

David Peattie
4517 Birch Bark Rd.
Concord, CA 94521

And hopefully for all three issues of **THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR**, David—since if you aren't, then you won't see your letter in print!

Neither we nor writer Roy Thomas wishes to comment on his work for other companies (hey, do they plug **CADILLACS AND DINOSAURS?**), but clearly he enjoys the offbeat assignments he's done for Topps.

Dear Roy,

I enjoyed your **DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER** series very much. I hope Topps lets you adapt some of it into a novel sometime. Dracula can use all the origins he can get!

However, the true story of Dracula is told in my recent book, *I Am Dracula*. After all, it's a first-person account: Dracula's life, death, and resurrection in his own words:

"I became a vampire for lies and for love. I remained one for revenge."

For the rest, you have to read the book.

C. Dean Anderson
(Address Withheld)

We have, Dean and it's great. For the uninitiated, *I Am Dracula* was published in very late 1993 by Zebra Books, and we hope everyone interested can still find it.

Of course, we're a bit prejudiced in favor of our own version of Dracula's "life, death, and resurrection," as told in **DRACULA: VLAD THE IMPALER**. However, like you said, Dracula can always use another origin.

For those of you who might have missed the **VLAD** series, fear not! It returns next month as **THE DRACULA CHRONICLES**. Topps is re-presenting the original 3-issue series by Roy Thomas and Esteban Maroto with **NEW** covers by Joseph Linsner.

POST SCRIPT: If reader response to **THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR** is strong enough, we hope to do more series with the Frankenstein Monster, Count Dracula or maybe even both. So let us know what you think, okay? Send those secret lab notes to:

THE FRANKENSTEIN/DRACULA WAR
c/o Topps Comics
One Whitehall Street
New York, NY
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Tell 'em Boris sent you!

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